



Wonder What Mertz Will Say Today?

We Are the Pioneers, and We Get the Business Because We are the Best Value-givers in This City.

This Week, Suits To-order, \$8.80

We are known far and wide as the best value-givers for made-to-measure tailoring. This reputation has been earned because we have always made it our purpose to study the interests of our patrons. This season we have introduced a new system of PRECISE FITTING. This system is exclusively our own, and the improvement in our fitting department is noticeable to those who wear our clothes.

Mertz and Mertz,
Betteryet Tailoring,
906 and 908 F Street.

PHILIPPINE LEPEPERS

There Are Fifty Thousand of Them in Our Islands.

SOLDIERS ARE IN GOOD HEALTH

Smallpox and Black Plague Prevail

Among the Natives.

FILIPINO SUPERSTITIONS

Copyright, 1900, by Frank G. Carpenter.

Special Correspondence The Evening Star.

MANILA, March 14, 1900.

One of the serious problems which confront the government here is the selection of a leper island and the segregation of the lepers. There are lepers scattered throughout the archipelago. In many places they mix with the rest of the people. They may be seen begging at the doors of the churches, and it is hard to tell whether they are not in the markets handling the vegetables and meats which we eat on our tables. There are, it is said, 30,000 lepers in the Visayan Islands, and the number in the whole country must be upward of 50,000. Leprosy exists to an alarming extent in several of the provinces of Luzon, and Captain Lynch, one of the doctors of the health department, tells me that he saw several hundred cases during his stay in Negros. The Spaniards paid but little attention to the prevention of the disease. They had only two hospitals, one in Cebu and one in Manila. In Cebu the disease is known to be spreading and in Manila there are undoubtedly many lepers at large.

A Visit to a Leper Hospital.

I took a carriage this afternoon and drove out into the country to the leper hospital. It is about three miles from the center of Manila and not far from the outskirts of the city. You go by thousands of the thatched huts of the laboring classes, each swarming with people, and at last come to a big white building which looks not unlike a penitentiary. It is surrounded by the large grounds, and shut off from the road by a thick wall of stone.

Entering the gate is like going into a prison. You are in a long passage between high walls of stone, and far down, at the end of this you see the barred doors of the hospital itself. Come with me and let us take a trip through it. There is a native at the entrance who looks ugly enough to be a patient himself. He is a native of the Philippines. He points across the court and tells us to enter. We do so, and within a few seconds are in the presence of two score horrible-looking objects, who have run to the doors to meet us. Some are young, some old—all are lepers. There is a boy, brown-faced, bright-eyed, and as quick in his actions and joyful in his laugh as your own boys at home. But look! His hands and his breast are covered with white spots, and one of his ears has already begun to decay. Next to him is a man whose nose has been eaten away and whose eyes are bleared with the disease. Others have foreheads which are falling in, toes almost gone and their bodies covered with sores. It is so horrible, indeed, that words can hardly express it.

Leaving the men's ward, we next go to the women's ward. There are eighty-one men and fifty-five women and girls now in the hospital. The females are of all ages, from little tots of four up to gray-headed, horrible-looking hags of sixty. The most of them are idle, sitting about talking, smoking and chewing the betel. One woman has her mouth so eaten away that neither teeth nor lips are left to hold her cigarette. Her nose is almost gone, but she has put the cigarette in one of her nostrils and is puffing out the smoke through the hole where her mouth should have been.

I can imagine nothing more horrible than the condition of these people here. They have no amusements and no work. They are just waiting for death, and each of them knows that they must die in a few days.

I understand that the health officers are considering the matter of the lepers, and that at the earliest possible moment the lepers will be gathered together and carried there.

The Lepers of Asia.

This part of the world seems to breed lepers. There are said to be more than a million in India, China and Japan, and in this estimate half a million is assigned to Hindoostan. No accurate statistics have been taken for China, for lepers are to be found in all the cities in the southern part of the empire. In Japan, lepers are everywhere. On many of the rivers they go about in boats asking for alms, thrusting out long arms and poor faces at every boat and ship which goes by. They blacken the funeral processions and levy tribute on the mourners. They threaten to trip and kill if they do not get what they want. A leper asylum in Canton which has 500 inmates. There both sexes live together, and many of them are married. I saw no Chinese lepers in the Manila hospital, but there is a large Chinese population here, and without doubt some of the Chinese are lepers. Leprosy exists in China several hundred years before the days of Confucius, and it is said that one of the earliest of that sage died of this dreadful disease.

Leprosy is usually caused by contact, but in the more prevalent form, wherever the people are overcrowded, dirty and poor, it is a hot, moist climate, such as we have here, is conducive to it, and the government is using every effort to put the town in a better sanitary condition.

The Health of Manila.

So far our soldiers have been very healthy here in Manila, and also in all parts of the Philippines. I have no doubt that these islands are among the most healthy of all tropical countries, and for people who live here and take care of themselves there is but little danger. The heat is no greater than that of the United States in the summer. However, we have no health regulations and a house-to-house visitation which the sanitary officials are now making shows that the city is in a very bad condition.

The death rate for the last six months of 1899 was about 41 per 1,000, estimating the population at 200,000. These figures are exceedingly high. Hong Kong, which is in the same latitude as Manila, and which has about the same climate, has a death rate only half as large, and it is next door to China, with all the plagues that that country so regularly produces. We have had practically no plagues during the time above mentioned.

The Black Plague.

Within the past few weeks, however, there have been a number of cases of the black death or bubonic plague. This plague has broken out at several of the ports of Japan and China, and there have been a number of deaths from it here. I found it at Kobe, Japan, when I passed through on my way to the Philippines. All the signs of it were there. There were examined for evidences of the plague before they were permitted to come on board the ship. Captain Lynch, however, requiring a doctor's certificate from each. The black plague has, in the past, been very common in India, and it exists in India and there are now a large number of cases in Bombay and Calcutta.

So far nearly every one who has caught the black plague here has died. The disease comes upon one without warning, in the shape of a fever which in a short time raises the temperature of the patient to 103 degrees and upward. There is no chill. The patient has severe headache and shows signs of stupor. After twelve hours the glands of the neck, the armpits, or the groin begin to swell and soon become as large as hens' eggs. In some cases the patient vomits blood, and within a few hours he dies. Some recover, and after he can keep himself alive for six days after the plague he is probably safe.

The plague kills rats as well as human beings. Dead rats are found in the drains in the infected portions of China, and the rats run from such places almost as fast as the men.

Object to Cremation.

The doctors here have had considerable trouble about disposing of the bodies. They

Economy a Surety-- Quality the Security.

Our extensive resources means underselling. It means a fair profit for us and at the same time substantial savings for yourself. How much lower we do sell than other fellows is daily made clear in our advertisements. Follow them closely and the benefits come to you. Another advantage is

Without extra charge. Remember, it's a privilege strictly your own. When it comes to paying it's left to you to settle by terms to fit your own circumstances. What more could we do to deserve your patronage?

CREDIT



A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price \$5.75

That quality does not regulate price at this store is shown in this case:

A very handsome Parlor Table, strongly made, with silver shelf and neatly finished. Note the price. 39c.

A Chiffonier that any home provider must have in construction, quality and finish it is well worth \$5.00. Note the price. \$3.95

We've a big surprise in store for you in a Parlor Suite offering. It means a saving of no less than \$20 or \$25. Note the bargain price. \$18.75

A Refrigerator you must have. Then let it be a good one. You don't run a risk in this one, whether man, woman or child. Refrigerator—cleanable and ice-saving, mineral wool filling—best make in the world and lowest price. \$6.50

This Sideboard—one that every housewife will find to possess—beveled plate glass, silver trim and nicely finished. Note the price. \$9.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

MATTING PRICE CUTS



Fancy Matting, per yard. 5c.
Heavy China Matting, per yard. 12c.
Extra Heavy China Matting, per yard. 15c.
Pile Japanese Matting, per yard. 15c.
Pile Japanese Matting, per yard. 15c.
Velvet Carpets, per yard. 60c.
Tapestry Carpets, per yard. 60c.

Here's an Extension Table—that for style and strength is the equal of any double-bed roomer one about town. Elegantly carved, heavy legs and 4 1/2 feet long. Best finish. Note the price. \$5.50

\$40 wouldn't be a cent too much for such a handsome Golden Oak Bed Room Suite—artificially carved, swell from Châteaufort style, superb finish. Note the price. \$28.95

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

MASSON'S YELLOW TABLETS



We've a COTCH here that \$10 elsewhere couldn't equal. Handmade upholstered in corduroy, full tufted and fringed. Note the price. \$7.75

A Hall Rack that compares favorably with such sold elsewhere at \$10. Highly polished, substantially put up and a French plate mirror—Note the price. \$6.75

A Large, High-back, Substantial, Comfortable and Roomy. Note the price. \$98c.

Bed Room Suite of handsome oak golden finish, heavily carved and substantially built. Actual a saving of \$10 for every purchaser. Note the extreme low price of. \$17.75

Now for a Parlor Suite bargain. Tasteful Silk Damask covering, highly polished, mahogany finish, hand-carved, elegant, worth \$40 of any one's money. Note the price. \$29.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75

A beautiful Brass-trimmed White Enamel Bed, heavy brass rails, large brass head and foot, the finish is excellent. Note the price. \$5.75